

year with the Fairfax Times that there was no county fire training academy in those days so he and his fellow volunteers learned the “hard way” by trial and error on the job.

Sam selflessly served on the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department for 70 years. He held numerous leadership positions including Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, multiple terms as President, and multiple terms as a member of the Board of Directors. Responding to innumerable emergency calls over many decades, it is impossible to calculate the number of lives and properties he helped save. As a life member of the VVFD, Sam continued to actively perform various administrative jobs in the department after he retired from operational duty.

Sam also contributed greatly to other community causes. In the early years of the station, the VVFD sponsored the Old Dominion Baseball League and Sam was instrumental in the construction of Waters Field. After the VVFD stopped sponsoring baseball, the Vienna Host Lions Club in 1954 called on Sam to organize little league baseball in the town. Sam set up the program, coached teams, and helped construct the necessary fields. The Jessup-Savia Field at Nottoway honors Sam in recognition to his tremendous contributions to little league and youth in Vienna.

Sam also served as president of the Vienna Lions Club and on the Vienna Centennial Coordinating Committee. In recognition of his years of service to the community, Sam was named the 2006 Citizen of the Year by the Vienna-Tyson's Regional Chamber of Commerce.

On July 25, 2011, the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department hosted a ceremony honoring Sam for his seven decades of service to the Department. During this ceremony, July 25, 2011 was proclaimed Sam Savia Day by the Town of Vienna in recognition of his contributions to the community, and the Commonwealth of Virginia followed suit by approving House Joint Resolution 5170 commending Sam for his service. The department also renamed its apparatus building the Sam Savia Apparatus Facility so future generations of firefighters and citizens in Vienna will remember this man who dedicated his life to public safety, his family, and his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me to celebrate the life and deeds of Sam Savia, and to express our deepest condolences to his wife Gertrude, their children, and their entire family.

FARM DUST REGULATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1633) to establish a temporary prohibition against revising any national ambient air quality standard applicable to coarse particulate matter, to limit Federal regulation of nuisance dust in areas in which such dust is regulated under State, tribal, or local law, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise to strongly oppose H.R. 1633, the Farm Dust Regula-

tion Prevention Act. Regrettably, the House Republican majority is choosing to waste precious floor time debating this political statement instead of allowing a vote on President Obama's American Jobs Act.

Contrary to the claims of my Republican colleagues, H.R. 1633 has nothing to do with job creation or economic growth. This legislation addresses a nonexistent issue since the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) stated repeatedly it has no intention of regulating “farm dust.”

However, it cannot be said that H.R. 1633 would have no effect. This legislation creates new loopholes that allow open-pit mines, gravel mines, smelters and coal-processing facilities to escape public-health protections under the Clean Air Act. Enactment of this legislation would result in more pollution leading to more premature deaths, asthma attacks, respiratory disease and heart attacks. House Republicans say they are standing up for family farmers when in fact they are aiding corporate polluters.

While the Minnesota family farmers I have heard from have serious challenges, they assure me that farm dust is far down on their list of priorities. Their real concerns relate to rising costs for seed, fertilizer, land, rent and machinery. They worry about protecting their land for the next generation in the face of federal cuts to conservation programs. They struggle with consolidation in the agricultural sector and the ability of the biggest farms to expand at the expense of smaller ones. Political debates in Washington about farm dust are not a factor in their lives.

H.R. 1633 is just another veiled Republican assault on our nation's landmark clean air laws. I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and return our attention to the real problems that are impacting job growth in our economy.

MAYOR CHARLES CROWLEY RETIRES AFTER A JOB VERY WELL DONE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on December 27th, Mayor Charles Crowley of the city of Taunton will be chairing his last City Council meeting. It has been a great privilege and pleasure for me during the last four years and nine months to work with Mayor Crowley, as the Member of the U.S. House of Representatives for the city of Taunton. Officially, he is an extremely thoughtful and creative chief executive, who combines a capacity to do serious policy analysis with important management skills. We have collaborated on a number of issues important to the city of Taunton, involving transportation, housing, and economic development, and I have found it easy to represent the city under Charlie Crowley's mayoralty, because he does his homework in a way that makes being the advocate for the city he presides over easy.

For someone who is interested in history, talking with Charlie Crowley is always fascinating. Mayor Crowley is a first-rate historian, and I have rarely been with him dealing with a particular policy when I haven't learned something relevant and interesting about the

history of the events or the place we are addressing.

Charlie Crowley has been a friend as well as a colleague. He retires entitled to a sense of satisfaction about the great job he has done—especially in an era when being Mayor of a city is one of the hardest jobs around.

URGING TURKEY TO SAFEGUARD ITS CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I'm thinking about why Congress is raising the issue of Christian properties in Turkey at a time when that country has already addressed these concerns. It is very unfortunate that at a time when our country is facing so many challenges, that we are focusing on an issue that should be settled internally by a foreign country. I strongly support religious freedom but this is not an appropriate issue for the United States Congress to be involved in.

Last August, while Congress was in recess, the Turkish Government took the decision to return to non-Muslim community foundations the immovable properties registered in the name of Turkish public institutions, or compensate (at market rates) those foundations if such properties are held by third parties.

Secretary Clinton publicly praised and “applauded” Turkey and Prime Minister Erdogan for this “serious step to improve the climate for religious tolerance” during a briefing on the release of State Department International Religious Freedom Report. The Report itself emphasizes Turkey's “steps to improve religious freedom.” Furthermore, during the American Turkish Council 2011 Annual Conference, Secretary Clinton said: “I was particularly impressed by Prime Minister Erdogan's statement during Ramadan that property would be returned to religious minority groups, and we also hope to see other positive steps, such as reopening of the Halki Seminary.”

The simple truth is that we shouldn't single out one country when we know there are similar issues throughout the world. If we're going to be involved with calling attention to the faults of one country, we are setting a dangerous precedent where the House of Representatives can be distracted by focusing on the problems existing anywhere else in the world. We need to be promoting religious freedom and tolerance all over the world and this resolution does not accomplish that goal. A better use of our time and energy would be for all of us to foster stronger bilateral relations with all of our allies.

CAMP ASHRAF

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Camp Ashraf is a small little camp in Iraq made up of a few thousand Iranian freedom fighters. They are unarmed civilians who, like us, don't like the tiny tyrant in the desert.